

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06219 162353Z
ACTION IO-13

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, EAGR, EGEN
SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: SECOND COMMITTEE DECISION TO TRANSFER
\$19.98 MILLION FROM THE UN SPECIAL FUND TO THE INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IRDAD)

REF: A) UN DOCUMENT A/C.2/31/L.92 REV 1; B) USUN 6201(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 15 THE SECOND COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE
DECISION IN REFTEL B PARA 2 BY A VOTE OF 52(US)-11-57. THIS
DECISION FOLLOWED THREE DAYS OF G-77 EFFORTS TO RESOLVE
DIFFERENCES AMONG THEMSELVES OVER THE QUESTION OF THE TRANS-
FER. BEFORE THE VOTE BOTH THE FRG AND JAPAN ANNOUNCED
ADDITIONAL PLEDGES OF \$3 MILLION EACH, SUBJECT TO PARLIA-
MENTARY APPROVAL. THE WESTERN GROUP VOTED SOLIDLY IN
FAVOR OF THE DECISION AS DID THE LATIN AND ARAB OPEC
MEMBERS (EXCEPT FOR ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN ABSTENTIONS).
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PAGE 02 USUN N 06219 162353Z

PAKISTAN MADE THE MAJOR SPEECH IN OPPOSITION TO THE
DECISION WHICH INCLUDED CRITICISM OF IFAD'S \$1 BILLION
TARGET--"SET BY ONE DEVELOPED COUNTRY AS THE CONDITION
FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION." END SUMMARY.

2. CONSULTATIONS ON THE DECISION TO TRANSFER \$19.98

MILLION CONTRIBUTED BY NORWAY AND VENEZUELA FROM THE UN SPECIAL FUND TO FIAD CONTINUED IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE RIGHT UP TO THE VOTE. THE G-77 WAS IN DISARRAY WITH PAKISTAN, YUGOSLAVIA, GUYANA AND JAMAICA AMONG THE LEADERS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE TRANSFER WHILE VENEZUELA, IRAN AND INDIA LOBBIED IN SUPPORT OF THE MOVE.

3. NORWEGIAN AMB ALGARD WITHDREW THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN REF A AND PROPOSED THE DECISION IN REFTEL B WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY ADOPTED. HE ARGUED THAT NORWAY WANTED TO SEE THE MONEY THEY HAD CONTRIBUTED PUT TO THE BEST POSSIBLE USE. AMB ALGARD ALSO STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO RATIONAL WAY TO DISTRIBUTE THE EXTREMELY LIMITED (\$22 MILLION) RESOURCES IN THE UN SPECIAL FUND AMONG THE FORTY MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA) COUNTRIES WHO HAD REQUESTED AND/OR WERE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND.

4. EARLY IN THE DEBATE THE FRG AND JAPAN EACH ANNOUNCED THEY HAD MADE \$3 MILLION SUPPLEMENTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFAD, SUBJECT TO PARLIMENTARY APPROVAL. THIS INCREASED THE FRG'S TOTAL CONTRIBUTION TO \$55 MILLION AND JAPAN'S TO \$55 MILLION. THAILAND ANNOUNCED AN IFAD CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 AND CHILE ALSO PLEDGED \$50,000.

5. THE PAKISTANI DELEGATE MADE THE STRONGEST STATEMENT AGAINST THE TRANSFER. HE ARGUED THAT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO ANY UN FUND BECAME THE PROPERTY OF THAT FUND AND DONORS CANNOT WITHDRAW THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 06219 162353Z

BUTIONS FOR USE IN AN OTHER AREA. CALLING THE UN SPECIAL FUND AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO), HE CLAIMED THAT THE DECISION FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE \$19.98 MILLION WOULD BE A VOTE OF "NO CONFIDENCE" IN THE FUND AND MIGHT WELL SOUND ITS DEATH KNEEL. ASSERTING THAT IFAD NEEDED ONLY \$10 MILLION TO REACH THE \$1 BILLION MARK, HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY \$19.98 MILLION WAS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSFERRED. THE PAKISTANI DELEGATE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT THE \$1 BILLION FIGURE NEEDED TO MAKE IFAD OPERATIONAL WAS NOT AN LDC DECISION BUT A TARGET "ST BY ONE DEVELOPED COUNTRY AS THE CONDITION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION."

6. IRAN, INDIA, AND SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES APPEALED FOR A "PRACTICAL DECISION" TO ALLOW IFAD TO BECOME IMMEDIATELY OPERATIONAL. YUGOSLAVIA, GUYANA, BANGLADESH, MALAYSIA, AND OTHERS REITERATED THE POINTS

MADE BY PAKISTAN ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT QUESTION THE
\$1 BILLION TARGET.

7. THE "NO" VOTES WERE CAST BY PAKISTAN, EGYPT,
MALAYSIA, GUYANA, AFGHANISTAN, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN,
ETHIOPIA, NIGER, SOMALIA, CAMEROON, AND UPPER VOLTA.
ALL OF THE WEO GROUP VOTED IN FAVOR EXCEPT FOR ABSTENTIONS
FROM GREECE AND MALTA. THE DECISION WAS SUPPORTED
BY MOST OPEC MEMBERS WHILE ALGERIA, LIBYA, INDONESIA
AND NIGERIA ABSTAINED. EASTERN EUROPEANS ABSTAINED
AS A GROUP AS DID THE MAJORITY OF THE AFRICANS.

8. IN THE MANY EXPLANATIONS AFTER THE VOTE. LDC'S
STRESSED THAT THIS TRANSFER SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A
PRECEDENT.

9. COMMENT: THE U.S. PLAYED AN ACTIVE, LOW-KEYED
ROLE IN THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDING INFORMATION
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PAGE 04 USUN N 06219 162353Z

TO INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE "ROUGH PARITY" ISSUE.
IT WAS STRESSED THAT A \$10 MILLION CONTRIBUTION WAS
NEEDED FROM VENEZUELA OR ANOTHER OPEC COUNTRY. GIVEN
G-77 SENSITIVITIES OVER THE UN SPECIAL FUND, THE
US MADE NO STATEMENT IN THE DEBATE. OTHER THAN NORWAY,
ONLY CANADA AND SWEDEN FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
MADE BRIEF INTERVENTIONS SUPPORTING THE DECISION.
THE EASTERN EUROPEAN BLOC ALSO STAYED OUT OF THE
FRACASS. END COMMENT.
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